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Remarks

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Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the exposed copper surface is passivated by exposure to the metallocene compound.

Summary of Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephonic interview with Applicants' representative on October 5, 2006. During the interview, the rejection of the present claims as being anticipated or obvious in view of Lopatin US Patent Application No. 2005/0085031 (specifically the subject matter of Lopatin supported by Provisional Application No. 60/511,993) was discussed. It was agreed that Lopatin does not disclose using a metallocene compound to passivate the exposed copper surface. The amendment to claim 1 was also discussed and it was agreed that it would be sufficient to overcome the present rejection.

Rejections Under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

All claims have been rejected under 35 USC § 102 or § 103 as being anticipated by, or obvious in view of, Lopatin et al. US Patent Application No. 2005/0085031.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to specify that exposure to a metallocene compound passivates the exposed copper surface. Independent claim 12 also specifies that the exposed copper surface is passivated by exposure to a metallocene compound. As discussed in the October 5, 2006 telephonic interview, Lopatin does not teach or suggest using a metallocene compound to passivate the exposed copper surface.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 12, as well as their dependent claims, are patentable over Lopatin.

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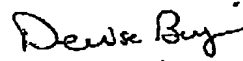
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CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

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